

REMARKS**I. STATUS OF THE CLAIMS:**

Claims 1-15 are currently pending in the application. Claims 10, 12 and 14 are withdrawn from consideration.

Claims 1, 11 and 13 have been amended. No new matter has been introduced by this amendment. Upon entry of this changes, claims 1-15 would still be pending.

II. CLAIM OBJECTIONS:

Claims 1-9 and 13 are objected. Claims 1, 11 and 13 have been amended to reflect that the magnification ratio of the image is to be "increased" to address the Examiner's concerns.

Further, the Examiner alleges that it is unclear how a system increases a number of pixels to be more than that of the acquired pixels. It is respectfully submitted that this aspect is described in the specification by way of example as an operation of an up-sampling circuit 504 and Fig. 9. The second signal processing enlarges a part (e.g., 904 in Fig. 9) of the original image by for example, up-sampling.

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the objection of the claims are respectfully requested.

III. CLAIM REJECTIONS - 35 U.S.C. §§ 102 AND 103:

Claim 15 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Itou (JP 2001-197347). Claims 1, 7-9, 11 and 13 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Itou (JP 2001-197347) in view of Parulski (U.S. Patent No. 6,539,177). Claims 2 and 3 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Itou (JP 2001-197347) in view of Parulski (U.S. 6,539,177) in view of Hashimoto (U.S. Patent No. 4,910,599).

Claims 4-6 are rejected under 35 U.S.C § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Itou (JP 2001-197347) in view of Parulski (U.S. Patent No. 6,539,177) in view of Hirose et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,838,371).

Claims 1, 11, and 13, as amended, reflect that, depending on whether either a first mode or a second mode has been selected, different operations are performed even if the same input is provided by a user. More specifically, if the telephoto side is continuously selected after transition from a control of the lens system by said optical zoom controlling means or operation to the first signal processing, the second signal processing is inhibited or executed depending at least in part on the selected mode (e.g., the first mode or the second mode).

The references do not disclose or suggest, individually or in combination, the above-noted claimed aspects of amended claims 1, 11 and 13. For example, Itoh is silent about operations in which the telephoto side is continuously selected after transition from an optical zoom to an electrical zoom. The remaining references do not appear to remedy the deficiencies of the Itoh teachings.

Accordingly, claims 1, 11 and 13 and their dependent claims are believed to be distinguishable over the cited references. Reconsideration and withdrawal of these rejections are respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION

Based on the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of claims and allowance of this application.

AUTHORIZATION

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required for consideration of this Amendment to Deposit Account No. 13-4500, Order No. 1232-5318.

In the event that an extension of time is required, or which may be required in addition to that requested in a petition for an extension of time, the Commissioner is requested to grant a petition for that extension of time which is required to make this response timely and is hereby authorized to charge any fee for such an extension of time or credit any overpayment for an extension of time to Deposit Account No 13-4500, Order No. 1232-5318.

Respectfully submitted,
MORGAN & FINNEGAN, L.L.P.

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By: _____

James Hyva
Registration No. 42,680

Correspondence Address:

Address Associated With Customer Number:
27123

(202) 857-7887 Telephone
(202) 857-7929 Facsimile